

Art Unit: 1773

10. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lazarov et al. in view of Davidson as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Guire (U.S. Patent 5,263,992).

Davidson does not specifically teach the use of albumin as one of the substances that may be coated to improve biocompatibility. However, Guire discloses that solid surfaces have been coated with biochemical materials such as heparin, albumin, and streptokinase to enhance thromboresistance (col. 1, lines 66-68). One skilled in the art, motivated to improve thromboresistance, would have found it obvious to apply albumin onto the metal layer disclosed by Lazarov et al.

Conclusion

11. This is a CPA of applicant's earlier Application No. 09/521,086. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the earlier application. Applicants have not filed any amendments or arguments with the request for a CPA. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action in this case. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee